



Distinguished Faculty Service Award

Sherron Jackson, M.D., is the paradigm of an engaged and valuable faculty member who has provided excellent care to a vulnerable population, has trained generations of pediatricians, and set an example for colleagues at MUSC and nationally to follow.

Jackson earned a bachelor's degree from Mercer University and a Doctor of Medicine from the Medical College of Georgia. She took an elective in Charleston during her fourth year of medical school so that she could be closer to her husband, who was stationed there. This good institutional fortune brought Jackson to MUSC's pediatrics residency, where she served as chief resident in the mid-80s and became the first African American to complete that training at MUSC. Upon completion, she joined MUSC's pediatrics faculty as that department's first African American member. Her training was not yet finished, though; she completed a general pediatrics fellowship from University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill in 1990.

The list of awards Jackson has earned is extraordinary, and they run the educational and clinical gamut. These awards have been given by students and residents, by colleagues and independent entities, including being named one of "100 Extraordinary Women" in the country in 2008, the Jenkins Award for improving children's health in 2016, and the Student National Medical Association's Achievement in Diversity Award in 2020. She is a master facilitator in MUSC's simulation center and has served as a model citizen of the university, college, department, and division across search, admissions, curricular, and clinical roles.

For over thirty years, as one colleague pointedly summarized, Jackson has been MUSC's key clinician in "establishing, developing, and expanding the program to care for children with sickle cell disease." This deep and abiding commitment to these patients and families is a hallmark contribution of Jackson's clinical faculty service. And Jackson has taken the extra step to assure that caring for these patients is part of the training every pediatric trainee at MUSC receives. Her care for these patients is about more than their atypically high numbers among our neighbors in South Carolina. Another colleague recalls phoning Jackson day or night for advice in caring for a patient in the emergency room or pediatric ICU. Of course, her calm expertise was vital, but her colleague would listen in amazement because Jackson invariably knew the patient, her history, and her family's circumstances from memory.

For her career of compassionate care of children, for her scholarship, for advocacy on behalf of those with sickle cell disease, and for her contributions at MUSC to further diversity, equity and inclusion, the Medical University of South Carolina Foundation is honored to present the Distinguished Faculty Service Award to Sherron Jackson, M.D., on August 17, 2021.